

Mount Holly Select Board Meeting
February 11, 2020
Minutes

Present: Select Board: Mark Turco (chair), Ron Tarbell, Jennifer Matthews

Town Officials: Susan Covalla, Carol Garrow-Woolley, Russ Garrow, David Johnson, Jon McCann

Members of the Public: Paul Barton, Kelly Beerman (Ninevah Foundation), Jeff Chase, Judy Hyjek, Annette Lynch, Don Richardson, Craig Tomkinson

1. **Call to Order** by Chair Mark Turco at 6:00 pm.

2. All stood for the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

3. **Changes and/or additions to the agenda** – Jennifer Matthews asked to add the annual geese permit, Harry's liquor license approval, and information from Don Richardson on the Emerald Ash Borer to **New Business/Other**. It was agreed to do so.

4. **Approval of January 14th, 2020 Minutes and Special SB Meeting Minutes of January 21st, 2020** – Ron Tarbell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mark Turco, unanimously approved.

5. Reports

a. Highways & Transfer Station – Clinton Woolley

i) **Update** – No update as Mr. Woolley was unable to attend.

b. Treasurer – David Johnson

i) **Monthly Income & Expense Report** – Mr. Johnson noted the following: no delinquent tax update was available; the latest quarterly State Aid for Roads payment was received and payments are running higher than the budgeted amount; Solid Waste Income shows \$4,103 received from the Rutland County Solid Waste District as the District returned excess cash-on-hand to each member town; all General Fund items are within the budgeted amounts; Solid Waste Hauling & Disposal Expenses will stay within budget; the Vehicle/Equipment Repair & Maintenance Expenses continue to be reasonable and under budget to date; Winter Road Materials & Outside Services show \$60,000 of the \$75,000 budgeted amount spent, primarily due to the large amount of road salt used this winter.

c. Rutland Regional Planning Commission – Jon McCann reported that he had attended the Regional Committee meeting where four proposed cell towers in the area were discussed. A motion passed unanimously to support the tower proposed in Mount Holly as there were no significant regional impacts. Mr. McCann also reported on the solar project moratorium in Castleton due to the loss of agricultural land and the view shed impacts. He wondered if there was anything in the Mount Holly Town Plan about view sheds. At the Commissioners' meeting, there was discussion about the proposed changes to Act 250, including giving a State board, rather than regional boards, more power over permits for major projects. There was also discussion about the need for strong and detailed town plans, which include town values and priorities, so as to be able to have standing in Act 250 proceedings. Mr. McCann noted the development at the very top of Okemo, which is in Mount Holly, and the possibility of more to come. He wondered if protection of the view shed of the upper slope of Okemo was warranted and supported by the town.

d. Rutland Region Transportation Council – Clinton Woolley was not in attendance, so no report was made.

6. Ongoing & Old Business

a. **Latest PFAS Test Results** – Richard Spiese from the VT Department of Environmental Conservation notified the Select Board that there was no PFAS contamination found in any of the wells neighboring the Mount Holly School; this includes the wells serving the town office, town garage, Mount Holly Volunteer Rescue Squad and Mount Holly Volunteer Fire Department buildings. Letters were sent to those neighbors whose wells were tested to inform them that their wells were free of any PFAS contamination. Additional testing and investigation will take place at the school in an attempt to pinpoint the source of the PFAS contamination that is on-going there.

b. **Lake Ninevah Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant-in-Aid Report & Request – Kelly Beerman** – Mark Turco as Select Board Chair signed the necessary documents for the grant submission. Ms. Beerman stated that funding announcements would be made in March with the grant agreement to follow in early summer. The grant this year is similar to those in previous years in that it asks for funds to support diver surveys and boat launch greeters looking for any Eurasian Watermilfoil and Eurasian Waterwort. This year's project has a budget of about \$25,000 with the hopes of receiving about \$10,000 in grant funds; the Ninevah Foundation will cover the additional expenses through fund-raising efforts.

c. **Other** – There were no other items.

7. New Business

a. **RRPC Emergency Mutual Aid Agreement** – Select Board members reviewed the agreement which spells out the terms for one town providing aid (personnel, equipment, materials) to another in an emergency. Annette Lynch asked what would be defined as an emergency. Mark Turco responded it could be natural disasters, fire & rescue, flooding issues. Jennifer Matthews noted the disaster could be “natural, mechanical, human-made, technological, or civil . . . ” At the RRPC meeting, Jon McCann said the agreement was explained as a way for towns to recoup costs when helping other towns, particularly in a FEMA-declared disaster. Jeff Chase asked about what documentation would be needed. Ms. Matthews replied there was a Mutual Aid Request Form which asked for details about the request (type of disaster, repairs needed, assistance needed, etc.).

b. **Agenda Items & Documentation** – Ms. Matthews reminded all that agenda items are due by noon on the Wednesday before a Select Board meeting. She also asked that any documentation related to agenda items be submitted by noon on the Monday before the Select Board meeting, so that Select Board members have time to read and review the information. Otherwise, items and documentation will be moved to the next Select Board meeting and agenda. Annette Lynch asked if it would be possible to have the Treasurer's Report put up on the website before the Select Board meeting. David Johnson said the report would be incomplete, but an incomplete report could be made available.

c. **Other** – Jeff Chase asked if there had been a secondary PFAS testing at the Mount Holly School. Mark Turco replied yes and the PFAS test results were still high.

Don Richardson stated he is on an **Emerald Ash Borer** task force, trying to deal with what could be an epidemic coming this spring. The task force is drawing up a plan to present to municipalities on how to take an inventory of ash trees along town roads and right-of-ways. Mr. Richardson plans to have information to pass out at Town Meeting to property owners about the Emerald Ash Borer and the need for an ash tree inventory on their own property. He plans to meet with Road Foreman Clinton Woolley in the not-too-distant future to discuss plans for an inventory along town roads. Kelly Beerman mentioned that the Ninevah Foundation is also addressing this issue and they would be happy to collaborate and support the Town in education efforts and an inventory of ash trees. Jon McCann noted it was important for second homeowners to not move firewood as the beetle is easily transported that way. All agreed education was the starting point to address the peril of the Emerald Ash Borer with a number of ideas for how to do so discussed.

Ron Tarbell made a motion to approve **the liquor license for Harry's Restaurant**, seconded by Ms. Matthews, approved and signed by all.

The **Annual Migratory Bird Depredation Permit** for the taking of four Canada geese at Star Lake has been completed. Paul Barton stated he thought this was a wanton waste of wildlife given the fact the geese have been here for thousands of years. Their poop on the beach is a human health and safety risk, according to the application. Additional discussion ensued on the pros and cons of goose control methods. Jennifer Matthews made a motion to approve and sign the permit, seconded by Mr. Tarbell, approved by all.

8. Announcements/Other Business

- a. **Town Meeting** – Monday, March 2nd @ 7:00 pm at the Mount Holly School
- b. **Voting -Town Meeting Australian Ballot Items & Presidential Primary** – Tuesday, March 3rd, 10:00 am - 7:00pm @ the Town Office

9. Review & Sign Orders – Reviewed and signed.

10. Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) – personnel (if needed) – Executive Session was not necessary this evening.

11. Adjourn – Ron Tarbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 pm, Ms. Matthews seconded, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted: Jennifer Matthews

Minutes Approved: 3.10.2020